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Tribute to the Red Army

H.M. THE KING-EMPEROR

TO-DAY I *and my peoples join with the peoples of the Soviet Union in wholehearted tribute to the heroic qualities and magnificent leadership, whereby the Red Army in its struggle against our common enemies has by its resounding triumphs written new pages of history*

It was the unyielding resistance of Stalingrad that turned the tide and heralded the crushing blows which have struck dismay into the foes of civilization and freedom

To mark the profound admiration felt by myself and the peoples of the British Empire, I have given commands for the preparation of the Sword of Honour which it would give me pleasure to present to the City of Stalingrad

My hope would be that this gift might commemorate in happier times to come the inflexible courage with which the warrior city steeled herself against the powerful and persistent onslaughts of her assailants and that it might be a token of admiration, not only of the British peoples, but the whole civilized world

H.M. THE KING-EMPEROR, in a telegram to M. KALININ
President of the Soviet Republic, on February 21

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UNDYING HONOUR

"Red Army Day in Russia is a fresh reminder to us all of the spirit, courage and endurance of Soviet troops. Their unflinching steadfastness in adversity and gallant vigour in the triumphant counter-offensive have brought fresh and undying honour to Russian arms. I am proud to have known the Russian soldier in peace and war. On behalf of the forces, under my command, Indian and British, I would ask you to accept our warm congratulations and good wishes."

—FIELD MARSHAL SIR ARCHIBALD WAVELL.

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DESTROYED A MYTH

"It should not be forgotten the Red Army was confronted by practically the entire weight of the land and air forces of the German war machine massed on the Russian front. The simple truth is that in these Russian campaigns the Government of the Soviet Union, its leaders, its Red Army and its great Soviet people destroyed the myth of Hitler's invincibility, contributed to world's peace and new strategy of defence against the mechanised lightning attack which threatened the earth, saved the liberties and homes of mother Russia, broke the back of Hitler's offensive, prevented Hitler and his Allies from dominating the three continents and gave to us the priceless gift of time to prepare."

—MR. JOSEPH E. DAVIS.

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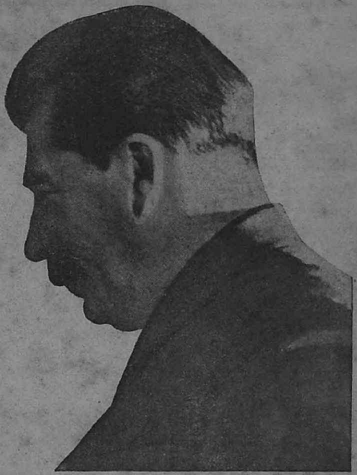
UNSURPASSED IN ALL HISTORY

"On behalf of the people of the United States, I want to express to the Red Army on its 25th anniversary our profound admiration for its magnificent achievements unsurpassed in all history. For many months, despite tremendous losses in men, supplies, transportation and territory, the Red Army has denied victory to a very powerful enemy. It has checked him at Leningrad, Moscow, Voronezh and in the Caucasus and finally in the immortal battle for Stalingrad, the Red Army not only defeated the enemy but launched a greater offensive which is still moving forward along the whole front from Baltic to the Black Sea."

—PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT, *in a message to M. Stalin.*

An Army of Avengers



THE Red Army is an army of defence. It has been created not to conquer other people's country, but for the defence of the frontiers of the Soviet land. But in June 1941 Hitlerite Germany treacherously attacked our country. From that moment the Red Army became transformed into an army of avengers. The Red Army is entering upon the 25th anniversary of its existence, at a decisive moment of the patriotic war. Due to the absence of a Second Front in Europe, the Red Army has been bearing alone the whole burden of the war.

IN three months the Red Army has cleared of the enemy, the territory of Voronezh and Stalingrad, regions of Chechenoingush, Northern Osetinian Kabardabalkar, and Kalmuck autonomous republics, of Stavropol and Krasnodar and the areas of Cherkessk, Karachayev, and Adygev autonomous areas and nearly the whole of Rostov, Kharkov and Kursk regions.

Time Working against the Enemy

MASS expulsion of the enemy from the Soviet country has started. The balance of forces on the Soviet-German front has undergone a change. Time is working against Fascist Germany. Hitler's Germany enjoyed until lately superiority over the Soviet Union in technical equipment and most of all in tanks and aircraft. But times have changed. The Soviet output of tanks, aircraft and guns has increased. The enemy has sustained tremendous losses especially in tanks, aircraft and guns. In the three months of Soviet offensive in the winter of 1942 to 1943 alone, the Germans lost over 7,000 tanks, 4,000 planes and 17,000 guns.

Tactics of Manœuvring

THE Red Army since the beginning of the war has put out of action about nine million German officers and men, of whom not less than four million were killed in action. The Rumanian, Italian and Hungarian armies have been completely routed. In the last three months alone the Red Army smashed 112 Divisions, killed over 700,000 of the enemy and took 300,000 prisoners.

THE German Army came into the war with two years experience, but since then the Red Army has become a regular army getting rid of the stupid and harmful tactics of the line and firmly adopting the tactics of manœuvring. The command of the Red Army has not only the aim of liberating the Soviet land from the enemy, but also not to allow the enemy out of our country alive.

The Pledge of Our Victory

IN the name of the liberation of our country from the hated enemy, I order:

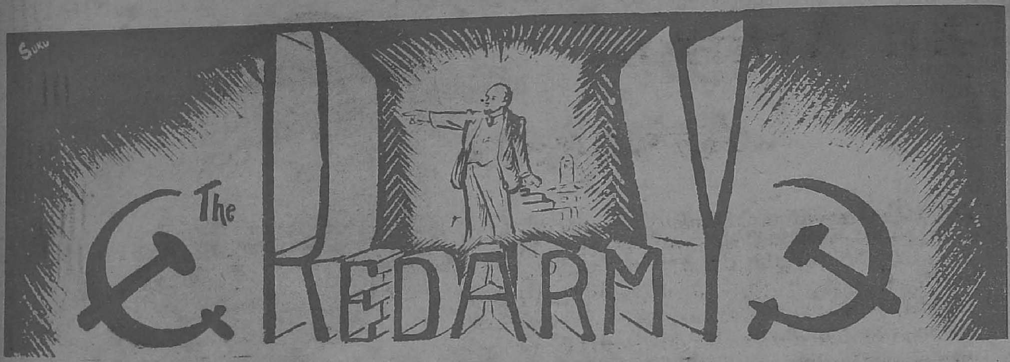
(1) To improve tirelessly military knowledge and to strengthen discipline, order and organization.

(2) To strengthen the blows upon enemy troops, to cut off enemy communication lines, to encircle enemy troops and annihilate them if they refuse to lay down their arms.

(3) To fan the flames of guerilla warfare on enemy's rear.

THEREIN is the Pledge of Our Victory.

M. STALIN.



A quarter of a century has passed since the Red Army was founded, but many centuries will have to pass before its magnificent achievements against Hitler's hordes become a mere memory of a forgotten age. His Majesty the King who has bestowed the unique distinction of a Sword of Honour upon the City of Stalingrad has paid a tribute to "the heroic qualities and magnificent leadership" of the Red Army, and declared that by "its resounding triumphs" against the common enemies of the United Nations, it has "written new pages of history." "*Written new pages of history*"—perhaps no greater tribute can be paid to the Red Army's achievements than these five simple words. President Roosevelt also emphasised the uniqueness of the Red Army's achievements in his message to M. Stalin on the occasion of the Red Army Day celebrations, when he expressed the American people's "profound admiration for its magnificent achievements, unsurpassed in all history."

ALL over the world, people have lost themselves in admiration at the marvels—or should we say miracles ?—wrought by the Red Army. Even in the wails of the Nazi leaders is a note of admiration which they are not able to hide, a note of fear and desperation which they are no longer able to conceal, even from the German people. In a two-hour speech in the Great Hall of the Sports Palast in Berlin last week, Dr. Goebbels spoke of the "gigantic danger" facing Germany.

> "The Reich is in peril, we must act and act quickly," he said ; "The war of mechanised robots against Germany and against Europe has reached its climax . . . We are facing a giant danger. Our effort must be just as gigantic."

AND what did the German Fuehrer say thirteen months earlier of this "giant danger" ? On November 8, 1941, Hitler said :

> "Never was a great empire smashed and destroyed in shorter time than was Soviet Russia . . . at the end of this year (1941). We can say this greatest danger (from Russia) already has been averted . . . The destiny of Europe for the next one thousand years has been decided."

The Dream and the Fact

THIS is not a picture of what happened at the end of 1941, but what Hitler wanted should happen. But Hitler reckoned without the Red Army—he knew it was strong and resolute, but he did not know it was so strong—so very strong that his army of marauders and murderers would be forced to repeat Rommel's run, in slow motion, in Southern Russia, and so very resolute that his own Propaganda Minister would be forced to exclaim :

> "The onrush of Russia against our venerable continent has broken out this winter with a violence overshadowing all human imagination" !

WELL may the Nazi leaders be surprised, for the Red Army was originally intended only for the protection of the U.S.S.R. This was pointed out by M. Stalin in his Order of the Day issued on the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Red Army. The Supreme Commander of the Soviet Forces said :

> "The Red Army is an army of defence. It has been created not to conquer other people's country, but for the defence of the frontiers of the Soviet land."

BUT when Hitlerite Germany treacherously launched an attack on Russia in June 1941, "the Red Army became transformed into an army of avengers." M. Stalin has given some recent details of how the Red Army has avenged the German attack and the atrocities perpetrated by them in occupied Russia. In the three months of the Soviet offensive in the winter of 1942–43 alone, the Red Army took a toll of over 7,000 tanks, 4,000 aircraft, 17,000 guns from the enemy; 112 German divisions were smashed, over 700,000 Germans killed and 300,000 taken prisoners. Since the beginning of the war, about nine million German officers and men were put out of action, of which four million were killed in battle.

Tactics of Manœuvring

HOW was the Red Army able to achieve this? How was it able to rout an army superior in numbers, equipment and actual war experience? How was it able to conquer in three months all the territory wrested from it by the Germans in five months in 1942. M. Stalin gives the answer:

> "The Red Army has become a regular army getting rid of the stupid and harmful tactics of the line, and firmly adopting the tactics of manœuvring."

MR. ANTHONY EDEN, Britain's Foreign Secretary, has paid a tribute to "the supreme direction of M. Stalin himself" and to the "masterly strategy" of the Red Army. The strategy is that of tackling a number of enemy strong-points at the same time so as to prevent reserves being rushed from one threatened sector to another. This has kept the Germans in a state of uncertainty as to where they have to switch their reserves, or whether they have to switch their reserves at all! The capture of Tikhoretsk by the Red Army brought about a definite deterioration in the situation of Germans in the Caucasus, for Tikhoretsk is the vital junction at the intersection of the Novorossisk-Stalingrad and Rostov-Grozny railways. This meant that the German Kuban army could no longer hope to fall back along the main Caucasus railway, though it could hope to defend itself with its back to the Sea of Azov and along an arc from Rostov to the Black Sea port of Novorossisk.

THE Red Army's strategy of simultaneous thrusts met with splendid success in the north-west. Kursk fell on February 7, Rostov on February 14, and Kharkov on February 16. With the fall of Kharkov, the entire German winter line crumpled up. We were hoping that the Red Army Day will synchronize with the capture of Orel, the southern rampart of the enemy's Moscow Front, but one of the most bitter battles of the whole war, says *Reuter's* Special Correspondent in Moscow, is now raging in the Orel area.

Exploded A Myth

THE Red Army has, by its great successes, exploded the myth of Hitlerian invincibility. Referring to it, Philip Jordan, Foreign Correspondent of the *News Chronicle*, who was in Russia for sometime, says:

> "It is a superb weapon: make no mistake . . . it is a strategic weapon rather than a tactical; and its main task, until the propitious moment arrives, is to avoid rather than to give battle. The fact that it exists is what constitutes its greatest strength; and on a long-term view of the war, it is fair to say that every one of Hitler's spectacular victories in Russia can only prove dead-sea fruit until he can destroy the Red armies in the field. He has not come within sight of achieving this . . . "

ON the other hand, he seems to be in a position of considering himself lucky if his forces are allowed to escape alive. But, says M. Stalin in his Order of the Day,

> "The Command of the Red Army has not only the aim of liberating the Soviet land from the enemy, but also not to allow the enemy out of our country alive."

THE Red Army which has steeled its heart to bring about the complete destruction of Nazism and Fascism, has placed the freedom-loving world under an immeasurable debt of gratitude to Soviet Russia till the end of time.

★

Running Commentary

Germany and the Position in Hungary. Germany's present situation can be properly assessed by an understanding of the position in the Balkan Peninsula. "The advance of the Red Army," writes the Swiss paper *Berner Tagwacht* "is a greater danger to Hungary, Rumania, Slovakia, Bulgaria and the whole of south-eastern Europe than to any other European country." Reports from various sources show that the Governments of Balkan countries no longer believe in the possibility of German victory. The fact that the Divisions which they sent to fight on the Russian front (20 Rumanian and six Hungarian, together with nine Italian) have been virtually annihilated, is kept from the public, as also the real situation at the Russian front. At a Government party meeting on January 22, the Hungarian Premier, Kallay, reported that Hungarian troops had suffered heavier losses than before, but that "they cannot be exactly ascertained."

The same policy of concealment is being applied to military operations. According to the *Berner Tagwacht*, General Von Miorka, Military Correspondent of *Pester Lloyd*, "gives a false picture of the position on the eastern front, but he is mistaken if he thinks that his readers do not know the real position." In his reports, it is added, he entirely ignores Russian communiques. Swiss and Turkish reports paint a similar picture of the Rumanian Government, as it struggles to allay popular alarm and unrest while facing insistent demands for more and more foodstuffs, raw materials and man-power from its insatiable German masters.

After quoting neutral reports that Rumanian losses amounted to 300,000 men and that two Rumanian Generals had committed suicide, the *St. Galles Tagblatt* adds:

> "The effect of these defeats is shown in the increasing numbers of deserters who are trying to avoid active service by escaping—mostly to Bulgaria. Simultaneously, antiwar propaganda has become more active; an enormous number of leaflets have been distributed calling on Marshal Antonescu to withdraw behind the Dnieper line . . . the Balkans, including Macedonia and Greece, are in a state of ferment."

The Balkan Governments are realizing that they have backed the wrong horse, and the Balkan peoples are beginning to see that they have been duped.

* * *

Tied to the German Chariot Since the treaty of Trianon at the end of the last war, the recovery of lost territory (whether inhabited by Magyar elements or not) has been the fundamental aim of the Hungarian regime. After Munich, Hungary saw a chance of recovering something of her old imperial position under the Hapsburgs by playing Germany's game. The first stop was to raise a territorial claim against Czechoslovakia, which was compelled by Germany under the first Vienna award to return to Hungary a strip of territory along her northern frontier. In response, Hungary signed the Anti-Comintern Pact in February 1939. Thereafter, she pursued a tricky policy of picking up territorial spoils in Germany's wake without contributing to Germany's military resources. Hungary annexed Ruthenia when Germany invaded Poland. The next step was to try for the return of Transylvania by Rumania. For strategic reasons, Germany wanted to have Hungarian territory extended into the heart of Rumania, and by the second Vienna award of August 1940 she allotted the greater part of Transylvania to Hungary. The Hungarian Government then signed the Tripartite Pact. Hungary had thus gained her prizes without firing a shot. But she had to fight for her spoils, so far as Yugoslavia was concerned. The German army marched in, and Hungarian troops joined them in an attack on Yugoslavia. Hungarian policy passed from opportunism to aggression, and she was securely tied to the German chariot. When Germany secured her Balkan flank by overwhelming Yugoslavia and Greece, she launched the attack on Russia—and the military collaboration of Hungary and Germany was inevitable. Hungary had gone too far, she had aroused bitter enmity in all her neighbours, and so a victorious Germany is her only protection. The present regime is in the grip of the Germans, but as Germany weakens, political changes may take place.

Snipers of the Red Army

By Lieut.-Gen. G. MOROZOV

SNIPING is an art which every Red infantryman is encouraged to acquire. The Soviet crack shots can be seen at their most brilliant on the Leningrad front, where there are whole platoons in which every man is a master sniper. The old hands impart their skill to the raw recruits. Pchelintsev, one of the best, has been made a Hero of the Soviet Union.

Each man has his little book in which he records his kills. A total of a hundred or more is not at all unusual. One crack shot called Dordzhiev has a score of 181.

Soviet snipers hunt in couples. Each man has a rifle equipped with a telescopic sight. Usually one does the shooting while the other observes. Every 20 minutes or so they change roles, since long intent gazing through field-glasses is very trying on the eyees.

At short range, when there are a large number of targets, particularly when an enemy attack is being repulsed, both partners maintain fire.

The sniper's commonest targets are enemy officers, observers, snipers, gunners, trench-mortarmen, automatic riflemen, aeroplanes on the point of landing and enemy parachutists.

INDEPENDENCE IN ACTION

So that he may give his skill full play, the sniper is allowed considerable independence in action. He uses his own judgment in selecting positions and targets. Often he acts in isolation on the most dangerous sectors, and remains in ambush when necessary to cover the retreat of his unit. He needs not only great skill, but also high courage and contempt for danger.

The Red snipers were particularly active this spring, when the heavy rains and the thaw forced the enemy out of his dugouts and trenches. Never had they enjoyed such a wealth of targets. They picked off every German who dared to venture within range.

Snipers take part in both offensive and defensive fighting. Recently an infantry company under the command of Lieutenant Vlasov was ordered to advance in a certain important sector. Vlasov sent snipers ahead with a vanguard patrol. The first encounter was with two German motor-cyclists. The snipers wounded them both and took them prisoner. Then a party of enemy scouts was detected. Five of these were picked off, and the rest fled.

PRELIMINARY CONFERENCE

Vlasov called the snipers into the preliminary conference before commencing the offensive. They were present while he gave the platoon commanders their orders. The snipers were instructed to keep on the outer flanks of the first and second platoons and to pick off enemy scouts and snipers, automatic riflemen and machine-gunners.

The snipers of the third platoon remained with their group, which advanced in the company's second line, while a party of snipers kept a little ahead of the flank squads. They observed all suspicious features of the terrain, keeping an especially wary eye on a mound beyond which they discerned a hardly noticeable camouflaged earthbank.

CROSS-FIRE FLANKS

When the platoons advanced to the attack, the enemy opened desultory fire from trenches. Machine-guns began to rattle from the mound. The Red infantry fell to the earth. The gunners could not be seen, but puffs of smoke beyond the camouflaged bank revealed their position.

The Soviet snipers then opened oblique fire from both flanks, those on the right aiming at the left side of the mound, and those on the left at the right side. The German machine-guns were silenced. But the snipers continued firing to prevent the machine-guns from coming to life again. Taking advantage of the cessation of fire, the platoons rose and charged. One enemy machine-gun opened fire for a moment, but the snipers silenced it again.

Here is another example—this time of successful co-operation by snipers in defensive fighting. Company commander Senior Lieutenant Stepanov, anticipating a local enemy attack, sent three pairs of snipers to take up positions on the nearest approaches to the Soviet defence lines. One pair, who established themselves near a little bridge across a stream, was instructed to keep a definite zone under observation, paying special attention to the exit from a certain thicket. An automatic rifleman accompanied this pair of snipers.

ANNIHILATING ENEMY SCOUTS

They were instructed that when the enemy's vanguard reached a specified line they should withdraw to the main position. While withdrawing, they were to halt at intermediate points and open fire. Similar precise instructions were given to the second pair, who

advanced to the mouth of a gully, and to the third pair, who took up a position at the bend of the stream.

After some time enemy scouts appeared. Adapting themselves to the terrain, they advanced towards the company's defence line. The snipers waited until the scouts had emerged from a maize field and then opened fire. Most of the scouts, including an officer, fell.

The enemy then brought up machine-guns, which the scouts held in check for half an hour. The Germans apparently decided that the line where the snipers were stationed was the advanced defence line, and opened artillery fire upon it. By then, however, the snipers had withdrawn, and the German guns shelled emptiness.

During the withdrawal the snipers halted at intervals and picked off enemy officers, observers and signallers. Assisted by the auto-riflemen, they also succeeded in shooting some machine-gunners and anti-tank gunners. Besides inflicting losses on the enemy, they retarded his advance for a considerable time.

NIGHT SNIPING

As soon as they reached the main Soviet positions on the advanced defence line, the snipers became part of the general fire system, definite targets being assigned to them. The enemy did not succeed in advancing beyond the stream. The Soviet battalion which later launched a counter-attack, repelled the Germans, who left many dead behind them.

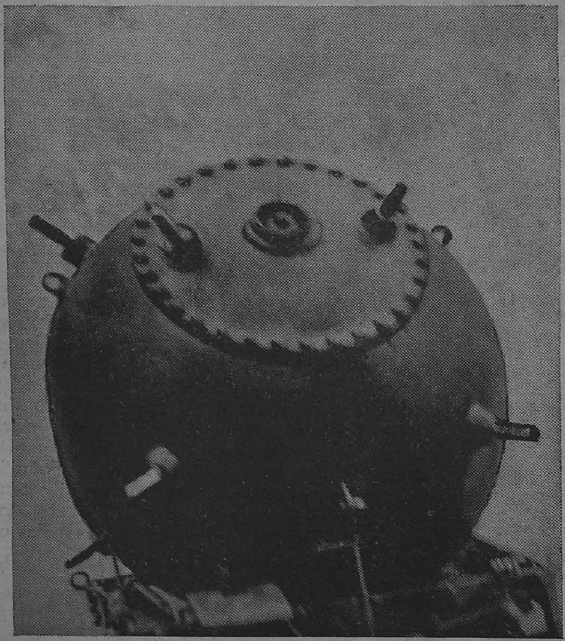
Snipers usually rest at nights. However, the enemy often takes advantage of darkness for reconnaissance, so our snipers have developed a taste for operating at dusk and dawn, and even in the dead of night.

It is hard to aim accurately in the dark with ordinary weapons. The sniper's rifle, however, has a telescopic sight which magnifies the target four times, and enables the sniper to aim accurately at something invisible to the naked eye. Searchlights and flares are sometimes employed to assist accurate aiming.

The ranks of the Red Army are constantly being swelled by new reinforcements of snipers trained behind the lines.

—Soviet War News.

Do not touch a mine



A report has been received of an attempt by villagers to handle a mine washed up on the coast of Eastern India.

It cannot be too strongly emphasized that by such action members of the general public incur the gravest risks. Mines are filled with high explosives, and during the present war the enemy has consistently disregarded the international convention under which mines must automatically become harmless once they start to drift. A mere touch may cause a disastrous explosion, with serious loss of life and damage to property nearby.

The outside of a mine is a metal sphere with a diameter varying from 2 ft. 6 in. to 4 ft. It is usually black, but becomes discoloured in the sea. If of the contact type, it has projections or horns, pressure on which will lead to an explosion. Members of the general public noticing such an object in the sea or on a beach should not thereafter go within 500 yards of it. They should report its presence to the nearest civil or military authorities, who will have it examined by an expert and, if necessary, rendered harmless before removal. By taking these precautions the public not only ensures its own safety but also enables the authorities to obtain what may be important information.

THE SWORD OF HONOUR

Russia: Before the Spring Thaws

By LORD STRABOLGI

THE whole military situation in the world war is dominated and conditioned by the fighting on the Russian front. The weight and strength of the offensives launched by the Russian army have surprised everyone outside a small inner circle of the High Command in Moscow. For the second time, the German General Staff has been taken by surprise. The first occasion was in the opening stages of the German invasion in the summer of 1941, when the power of manœuvre, tactical efficiency and weapon strength of the Russian armies were more formidable than German experts had anticipated. This miscalculation was shared by most of the professional experts in other countries, belligerent or neutral.

What has happened, and is happening, is that the Russian counter-offensives this winter have been far more successful than those 12 months earlier and have already had results of the greatest importance. While the losses of 18 months' hard campaigning have weakened the German armies, Russian armies are now stronger and better equipped. Russian generals have solved many of their supply difficulties and have greatly improved their tactical methods. Russian artillery and field mortars have been strengthened and, added to a successful supply of tanks and aeroplanes from United States and Britain, has given the Russian armies the necessary weapon superiority for the first time.

SUBSTANTIAL AIR SUPERIORITY

Perhaps, most important of all, the 6,000 aeroplanes sent to Russia from the United States and Britain, added to the greatly increased output of modern machines in Russian aircraft factories, have given the defenders substantial air superiority along the whole front over their German opponents.

At the beginning of the great Russian winter offensive last November, Axis forces on the Eastern Front numbered approximately 240 divisions, of which about 60 were from Italy, Hungary, Rumania, Slovakia and Finland. With the exception of Finnish divisions, which are known to be tired, all these satellite armies have ceased to exist as serious fighting forces. Rumanians, Hungarians and Italians in particular have been so battered and weakened that the remnants can now be used only on lines of communication.

Of 180 German divisions, 60 at least have been cut off or practically destroyed. In the first two months of the Russian winter offensive, 500,000 Germans have been killed and 200,000 captured as prisoners. Add to these the wounded—and at least one-third of the German armies on the Russian soil has been put out of action.

SITUATION SIMILAR TO OCTOBER 1918

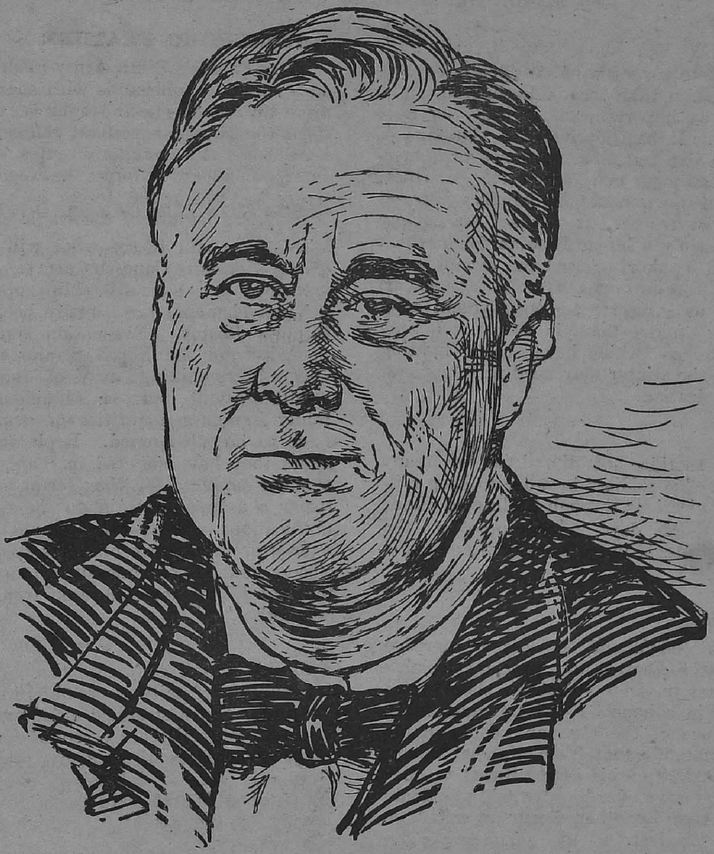
The material losses have been equally heavy. There have been captured or destroyed 6,000 tanks, 12,000 guns and 1,000 aeroplanes. It is noteworthy that the Russian air, weapon and numerical superiority has enabled a number of heavy attacks to be launched along this whole long battlefront between the Baltic and the Black Sea. We thus have, on a much larger scale, a situation on the Eastern Front similar to that in October 1918, when, on the Western Front, in France and Belgium, Marshal Foch, in supreme command of the British, French and American armies, was able to pursue comparable tactics. Then, in the autumn of 1918, aerial, weapon and numerical superiority enabled the French Marshal to jab or thrust at a number of points simultaneously, thus preventing the German generals from concentrating their reserves to meet successive threats. Marshal Hindenburg had no alternative but to retreat along this whole line with the object of falling back on the Rhine.

Behind the German armies was a good system of roads, railways and canals, and the retreating distance was not too great. Nevertheless, Hindenburg failed to extricate his army, and the German Government was advised by the German General Staff to sue for an armistice on any terms.

Now the difficulties of winter retreat along the whole Russian front would be far greater owing to weather conditions, comparative lack of communications and the far heavier equipment of a modern army which would have to be evacuated or abandoned.

If the pressure of the Russian armies can be maintained, such a retreat may be forced on the German High Command. It has already begun in the Caucasus and, to a certain extent, on the central front. It could well end in a great military disaster. It is known that the Germans are using such reserves of fresh troops as are available to reinforce their hard-pressed armies on the southern sector of the front, but it is doubtful if these are enough to save the situation. Very great events may happen on this Eastern Front before the spring thaws.

Earned Lasting Admiration



"TO-DAY the great successes on the Russian front have led thousands of Americans to throw their hats in the air and proclaim victory is just round the corner. Others among us believe in the age of miracles. They forget there is no Joshua in our midst. We cannot count on great walls crumbling and falling when a trumpet blows and peoples shout. It is not enough that we have faith and that we have hope. Washington himself was the exemplification of the other great need. Would that all of us could live our lives and direct our thoughts and control our tongues as did the father of our country.

"THE enforced retreat of the enemy had cost him heavily in men, supplies and territory and especially in morale. Such achievements can only be accomplished by an army that has skilful leadership, sound organization, adequate training and above all determination to defeat the enemy at no matter what cost and self-sacrifice. At the same time I also wish to pay a tribute to the Russian people from whom the Red Army springs and upon whom it is dependent for its men, women and supplies. They too are giving their full efforts to the war and are making the supreme sacrifice. The Red Army and the Russian people have surely started Hitler's forces on the road to ultimate defeat and have earned the lasting admiration of the people of the United States."

—President ROOSEVELT.

A Major Russian Objective

By MAJOR-GENERAL SIR CHARLES GWYNN

HISTORY can show few if any more complete reversals of an apparently desperate situation than that of Stalingrad. The victory is as important strategically as it is sensational. It has deprived the Germans of a force of a size that no army, however numerous and strong, can afford to sacrifice. Moreover, it was undoubtedly largely composed of their best troops. It releases an equally large or possibly a larger Russian force which may within a short period be available for attack in the current operations or can be withdrawn as a reserve for employment after the spring thaw—that is to say at a time when the troops which have been fighting throughout the winter may need relief for rest and reorganization.

Hitler's sacrifice of the lives of many thousands of his soldiers in order to keep railway communications through Stalingrad closed for a few more days affords proof of the immediate strategic importance of the opening of the lines.

The moral effect and the loss of prestige entailed by the disaster may have incalculable results. That an army of that size should have found itself in a hopeless position must shake the confidence of the German people in the Higher Command; that Field Marshal Paulus and some 90,000 of his men refused to obey Hitler's 'no surrender' order will no doubt be remembered by other Germans called on to fight to the last.

ASTONISHING FEATURE

Why Paulus's Sixth Army made no attempt at a sortie to join hands with the relief forces from Kotelnikov still requires explanation. That the Russians without railway communications and by circuitous routes were able to interpose adequate forces between the Sixth Army and the relief forces is not the least astonishing feature of the whole episode.

We have still to see what will be the fate of the German Caucasus army. It may be presumed that a considerable proportion of its original elements has already been extricated through Rostov. Evacuation across the Sea of Azov and the Kerch Straits seems to be the only remaining way of escape and ice conditions will increase its difficulties. Certainly immense quantities of equipment will have to be abandoned. Replacement of the losses they have suffered in material must be a major problem for the Germans for it will throw a desperate strain on the railway communications. What they will not be able to replace are the great numbers of experienced officers and non-commissioned officers, even if they can fill the depleted ranks from one source or another.

* * * *

In this winter campaign the capture or the interruption of railway communications is the main object of a strategic manœuvre. Lateral railways especially are essential for the movement of reserves of an army, waging as the Germans are a defensive struggle. The importance of the capture of town depends largely on the extent to which they control the railways.

Army of Thinking Men

"It lies to the credit of the Soviet military authorities that they early grasped the need for the education of the rank and file. They created an army not of automatons but of thinking men full of initiative."

—MR. ATTLEE.

THE PROUD PRIVILEGE

It has been the proud privilege of the Russian army to be the first to demonstrate to the world that this Nazi German army is no better than the army of the Hohenzollerns, that it relies principally upon surprise attack on unprepared populations for its success and that, when it meets a force properly equipped and led, it can be utterly defeated.

—Mr. DUFF COOPER.

Brilliant Victories

★ ★

"I was overwhelmed with joy by the news of the continued successes your army has achieved during the past few weeks. The successful recovery of the big cities and the annihilation of the enemy forces foreshadow the collapse of the Axis gangsters and further facilitate the execution of the United Nations' plan for counter-offensive. These brilliant victories were wholly due to the gallantry of the soldiers and people under your able command.

ON the occasion of the 25th anniversary of Red Army Day, I, herewith, convey to you our heartfelt congratulations and best wishes for your further victory. It is our belief that only through the destruction of the military might of the Axis partners in the East as well as in the West, can a lasting world peace be established. Hence the mission of the United Nations is one and the same, and the victory is indivisible.

I have confidence that your country and my country will co-operate in the spirit of mutual assistance in laying the foundation for a world justice and peace at an early date."

—GENERALISSIMO CHIANG KAI-SHEK, in a message to M. Stalin.

Defender of Stalingrad

A Sketch of Rodimtsev

MAJOR-GENERAL Alexander Rodimtsev, defender of Stalingrad, learned the art of street-fighting side by side with British soldiers. He fought in Madrid during its long siege by the Fascists, for the Government of Spain. His companions—volunteers like himself—were members of the International Brigade which included among its numbers many Britons. Month in and month out, the young Russian, with volunteers of many other nations, held the suburbs of Spain's capital against a numerically superior and far better equipped foe.

Rodimtsev went back to the Red Army with knowledge of tactics in close fighting, which Marshal Timoshenko, his supreme Commander, gave him an opportunity to demonstrate when the German legions swept up to the gates of Stalingrad.

Rodimtsev is a son of the Revolution. He is now 36, and remembers the Czarist days only vaguely. His father was a revolutionary working man who took active part in the 1917 rising. Young Alexander, joining the Red Army—as several boys of his age did—in 1924, attracted attention for his soldierly qualities. He was brought to the notice of Marshal Shaposhnikov, one of Russia's greatest strategists, who was then head of the General Staff Academy. The clever young soldier became a cadet and graduated with high honours.

FOUGHT IN SPAIN AND FINLAND

Five months ago he was a full Colonel in the Red Army, having fought both in Spain and Finland. He was given the Gold Star of a Major-General and put in command of a Soviet Guards Corps. Guards in the Red Army are given the name as an honour. Any regiment can become a Guards' regiment if it distinguishes itself sufficiently on the battlefield.

Rodimtsev, who shares with great men one valuable gift—he can command sleep whenever he likes and get along with very short hours—held his Guards in readiness at Stalingrad for the German onslaught that Timoshenko knew was on its way. One of his divisions held off two divisions of German infantry and a hundred tanks for ten days, and then counter-attacked. They annihilated their enemy and cleaned up that particular section of the city. He went to the north-west suburbs where he is standing to-day, and was put in charge of the defence of the workers' settlement.

UNORTHODOX TACTICIAN

Rodimtsev is an unorthodox tactician. He operates with small self-sufficient groups of men who have tremendous fire power. Another trick he learned in Madrid has been used devastatingly. He has allowed Germans to occupy whole blocks of buildings. Holding flank forces in reserve, he has then cut them off, having a number of small sieges within a greater siege going on at one time. His troops with their great fire power and his tunnellers with their dynamite have done the rest.

Rodimtsev is an unmarried, squarely built and briefly spoken young man. He has proved that the lines of determination on his clean-shaven face mean something.

Stalingrad: Stay-put Women

ALL through the siege of Stalingrad some of the women stayed behind, cables the *Daily Herald* Moscow correspondent.

One with two little girls, aged three and five, lived in the no-man's-land. She popped up from a hole in the ground while I was touring the desperately contested grounds of the Red October Factory.

"My home was over there," she said, waving her hand towards the pounded streets.

For a time it was not too difficult behind the Soviet lines and she could make herself useful by doing small jobs for the troops like washing. Then the tide of battle swayed over her head and she was between the German and the Russian positions. She had a little food saved up but it did not last long. At night she had to venture out periodically to carve pieces of flesh from dead horses.

I met another of the stay-put women at the top of a Volga cliff down which a wooden ladder led to her headquarters. She was standing at the entrance to the cave hanging out a line of washing with two children looking on. "I have been here right through the battle," she told me. "I reckoned it was safer to stay than to risk crossing the river under fire. Besides I could do laundry work for the staff."

The Battle of House 21-A

THIS is the story of what happened in a house in a suburb of Stalingrad—No. 21-A. It is in a broad street of large houses with gardens and an avenue of young poplars—a quiet, peaceful scene if it were not for the craters in the road, two burnt-out German tanks up against a broken stone wall, and the barricades.

This is the first line of the front. No. 21-A is a fine four-storey house which would be comfortable enough if it were not for the fact that a corner has been sliced off by a bomb and that the windows and doors have been blasted by explosions. This is a house where for nine days a battle has been raging. Sub-Lieutenant Svetkov with a small group of men is holding it, and the house opposite is held by Germans. The Sub-Lieutenant told a *Pravda* correspondent the following story of the house :—

In mid-September the Germans concentrated on the outskirts of Stalingrad a powerful force, and captured this street. They built defences, but Russian guards attacked by night and cleared the street. In house 21-A they found many German dead and in apartment No. 3 on the second floor they saw the body of an old woman covering an 18-months-old dead child. Before she died she gave her name and told the terrible story of the house. When the Germans attacked the house she, her daughter, and grandson were alone there. When the Russians counter-attacked, a German officer came into the room and shot into the boy's bed. The old woman ran towards him and gripped his hand. The German turned the revolver on her and fired three times. The girl was taken away by soldiers.

A CHILD'S TOY

As he told the story the Sub-Lieutenant jumped excitedly to his feet and took from his pocket a small toy. "This is what I found in the boy's hand," he said : "I am keeping this, and I will never forget that little boy." He said that when the guards captured the house they built defences in all directions and placed machineguns to dominate the cross roads. The next morning the Germans counter-attacked. From the corner windows, in trenches, and behind barricades the guards awaited the attack. Twelve heavy German tanks carrying shock troops came down the street.

A violent battle broke out at the narrow neck of the street. Russian grenadiers coolly waited for the tanks. They fired at them, and five were burnt, but the others advanced. The Russians had no cartridges left for their anti-tank rifles. Moving swiftly from window to window they carefully chose the moment to throw their grenades. Three more tanks stopped, but a fourth continued to come forward. From the ground-floor windows the guards used automatic rifles against German storm troops. All their anti-tank weapons were exhausted.

Then one tall fellow took an anti-tank mine, held it firmly to his chest, and threw himself under the tank, crying : "You won't get through, I won't let you." The machine came to a standstill and blew up. Three tanks remained, and smashing through the barricade they came straight towards house 21-A. They were met by a rain of petrol bottles. But some storm troops jumped from the tanks and reached the door of the house and fought on the staircase. While other Russians built a barrier of furniture across the first landing one Russian lay flat on the stairs keeping the Germans at bay.

DEFENDERS OUTNUMBERED

The defenders were faced by thrice their numbers. Five men on the first landing, with no munitions save what was in their rifles held their fire till the enemy clambered on to the barricade. Here the Germans were held, but other Germans climbed up the fire escape and attacked from behind. The Russians got to the floor above, placed a wounded man on the balcony, and again faced the Germans who were edging up the stairs throwing grenades before them. As the grenades were lobbed at them a Russian jumped and caught them and roaring with excitement, flung them back.

This was more than the Germans could stand, and at nightfall they retreated to the ground-floor. The next morning they again tried to get control of the whole house. They began by tossing mines through a large staircase window, but when the shock troops again tried to break their way upstairs they were met by carefully chosen shots from behind the barricade.

The Russians' situation had grown desperate. Their cartridges were spent. The guards began to prepare themselves for a hand-to-hand struggle. Suddenly from somewhere above there came excited shouts. Russians from the next block, clambering from roof to roof, had reached 21-A just in time. Using grenades they forced the Germans downstairs, and soon the whole house was again in Russian hands. This attack cost the Germans 52 soldiers and officers.

Lieutenant Svetkov at the end of his story turned to his men and took the toy from his pocket. "I have a little four-year-old daughter," he said, thoughtfully. Then, going to his machinegun, he fired two long bursts at the house opposite. The Germans replied. Mine explosions shook the house. "When I think of the Germans I can't control myself," he said. "I shake; my hands itch, and either I have got to shoot or throw a grenade or use the bayonet."

In such houses the defenders of Stalingrad fought with the same bitter hatred.

The Times.

Dramatic Capture of von Paulus

By WALTER KERR

NOT far from this city of the dead Stalingrad, Field Marshal Friedrich von Paulus, Commander of the destroyed German Sixth Army, is a prisoner in an unpainted, winter-beaten peasant hut.

I saw him when he stooped to pass through the doorway out into the snow-covered yard. His lean, drawn face was as grey as his hair. He is 52 but looks 65, and he is six-feet-four. His thin lips gave him a hungry look. His right eye, part of his right cheek and the right side of his nose twitched, making it apparent that he is suffering from a nervous affliction.

Near the warm little hut, in which he is living with his Chief of Staff, Lieutenant-General Schmidt, and his Adjutant Colonel Adam, were other prison homes guarding some of his Corps and Division Commanders. They were a miserable-looking lot, one with a monocle, some with saber cuts, and all but a few trying to live up to a moving picture conception of the German General.

I talked with Chief Lieutenant Fedor Yelchenko, 21, the Ukrainian boy, who captured von Paulus.

IN A DEPARTMENT STORE

When I saw von Paulus, he was wearing a grey rabbit-fur hat and a long grey overcoat without medals or decorations of any kind except the epaulets of a Colonel-General. He did not want to talk and the only words he said were, first name "Friedrich", and age "52."

Von Paulus was captured in the basement of Stalingrad's big department store, the Univermag, early on January 31. The southern group of the two German forces, who were cut off and surrounded within the city, made their last stand here.

The store is in the centre of the city in the large Square of the Heroes of the Republic. Nearby are the remains of a theater, the Intourist Hotel, a Red Army building and a museum.

The square was surrounded by the Russians of Colonel Ivan Burmakov's brigade. Von Paulus was in the store's cellar, with General Schmidt, Colonel Adam and Major-General Raske, who commanded the Southern group. The Russians knew that they were there for the night before they captured three Majors who disclosed the position.

AN ULTIMATUM

During the night, Colonel Burmakov sent an ultimatum. There was no answer. Now, I will let Lieutenant Yelchenko tell his story. He is a husky little fellow from Uman near Kiev. He said:

"The Germans kept on shooting so, at seven o'clock, we opened up our artillery and mortar fire. After 15 minutes of this, General Raske sent out his Adjutant and an interpreter. He said his big chief wanted to talk with the Russian big chief. I said, 'I'm the big chief here. Take me to your man.'

"We started towards the gate, but the Germans in the courtyard yelled that the entrance was mined and showed us another way in. I had 15 men, including two other officers. We got into the cellar and saw that it was jammed with soldiers trying to escape our mortar fire.

"We almost had to fight our way through the crowd. The officers showed us the room but said that only one man could go in. I wanted my 15 men to come in too. I thought, 'After all, they are Germans in there. I don't like the idea of going in alone.' I insisted and they let two men come with me.

"Inside I saw Raske and Schmidt. I said, 'Where's von Paulus?' They said they were negotiating in the name of von Paulus."

A MEMORABLE EVENT

"This anniversary cannot fail to be a memorable event to every soldier no matter of what nationality. The Red Army's extraordinary achievements represent in many respects the most magnificent war effort the world has yet seen."

—GENERAL MACARTHUR.

RUSSIA'S SECRET

"What is the secret of Russia's great military effort? Consuming patriotism, unshakeable determination, selfless endurance beyond belief, supreme leadership and masterly organization."

—SIR JOHN ANDERSON.

Stalin's Order

NOT a single enemy soldier must remain on Russian soil after this summer.

This is Stalin's order. And the Russian General Staff, to attain it, is elaborating plans for a gigantic summer offensive which will surpass in size and intensity anything that has been seen before on the Eastern Front, declares the *Sunday Express* Stockholm correspondent.

Three million soldiers equipped with the most modern arms are now being trained in Russia's interior, he says, for the special task of dealing the *coup de grace* to Hitler's exhausted forces.

This terrific army, commanded by experienced officers, consists chiefly of the classes called to the colours during the past 12 months and includes mechanised and armoured units, air force, artillery and para-troops. The men are being trained in the Urals and Siberia. In two or three months they will be ready to move to the front.

According to Russian reports, the present offensive is expected to come to a standstill with the arrival of the thaw, when the country will be turned into a sea of mud making operations by mechanised units impossible. The lull in big-scale operations will start at the end of April on the southern front, and in the middle of May in Central and Northern Russia.

A NEW OFFENSIVE

Four or six weeks later, the writer predicts, a new Russian offensive will be launched before Hitler can marshall his forces to make a last attempt to recapture lost positions.

British and American supplies are expected to play an important role in the offensive. The Russians have already made necessary preparations to assure safe arrival of this war material. During the past months tremendous work has been carried out all over Russia in connection with the new Alaska-Siberia northern supply route, which is much less exposed to enemy air and submarine attacks than the one used last summer. All ports on this top of the world route have been enlarged, 60 meteorological stations have been established and scores of airfields built.

A GREAT ENCOURAGEMENT

"These victories are a great encouragement to the United Nations and inspiration to every man who loves liberty."

—MR. SUMNER WELLES.

Shooting of Russian Children

FROM "*PRAVDA*"

STEP by step the Red Army is forging ahead. Soviet villages and towns are being liberated. With tears of joy in their eyes the people come out to meet the Red Army men, their own dear liberators. Children, our pride, our joy, our future, warmly embrace them.

After words of ardent thanksgiving, the people begin to tell bitter stories of German crime. Not a single village captured by the Germans is free from their bloody traces. Infuriated by their failures at the front, they wreak their bloody vengeance on the peaceful population. They spare nobody.

Here is a protocol which freezes the blood. In a hamlet called Overensky in the district of Stalingrad, a Hitlerite officer mislaid a packet of cigarettes and the suspicion fell on some children. One of the Germans alleged that he had seen the boys playing with cigarettes. The Germans know that the dearest possessions of every Soviet citizen are his children. They broke into the cottages, rounded up the boys, beat them brutally with sticks and rubber truncheons and kicked them with their heavy boots before the eyes of their parents. Then they dragged them through the streets like chained dogs and pushed them into large open trucks.

ON REVOLUTION DAY

This was on November 4, 1942. For three days they kept the children in trucks and let them go hungry and cold and beat them till blood ran several times daily. On November 7, 1942, when the whole Soviet Union was celebrating the great Socialist Revolution, the German Commandant drove the people of Overensky on to the village square. Through an interpreter, he announced that the shooting of boys would now take place. "The relatives now have permission to weep over them," he added. Someone shouted. The Commandant declared through the interpreter that if he was not satisfied then all the inhabitants could expect to be executed and the hamlet burned down.

A car approached. German officers from other garrisons were coming to the square. They alighted smiling, rubbing their hands. They had come to watch the execution. They bustled about preparing their cameras. Then a large car containing children drove up to the square. It stopped and the boys were brought out. They could hardly stand. Their faces were covered with bruises and open wounds.

BRUTALLY TORTURED

Read this protocol signed by Captain Khankin Silkin, representative of the Lapichevsky Rural Soviet, Semyonin, father of two boys and other local inhabitants:

"On the day of the 25th anniversary of the October Revolution, they began to bring out children already brutally tortoured and tied them together to be shot. They were brought out to the accompaniment of laughter and noise of drunken Germans surrounding them. In this way the following were shot: Vanya Makia (11), Vasya Yegorov (14), Kolva Gorin (12), Alesha Semyonin (12), Artem Semyonin (14), Kolya Yegorov (12), Senya Manzhin (12), Mikofor Nazarkin (12), Kostya Golovlov (14), and Yemelian Safonv (12). During the shooting the boy Kostya Golovlov shouted to the Germans 'All right, shoot us, reptiles. All the same my father and our Red Army will pay you out for us and for everything.'

"This crime against children concerning which the present protocol is drawn up was perpetrated by the German Commandant Lieutenant Friedrich Guck and the interpreter."

The Sword as a Symbol

The sword is the most highly honoured of all weapons, a symbol of military dignity and authority, and it is the instrument with which the monarch confers knightly honours.

There are four swords used at the Coronation of a British Sovereign: (1) the Sword of State properly so-called, (2) the Curtana, the Sword of Mercy, which is pointless, (3) the Sword of Spiritual Justice, & (4) the Sword of Temporal Justice. The Sovereign is girt with the first, while the rest are carried before him.

The great heroes of the world are depicted as the proud possessors of swords, each having a particular name and quality of its own. Arthur's sword was Escalibar, Cæsar's Crocea Mors, and Charlemagne's Joyeuse and Flamberge. Mark Antony had his Philippan, Hildebrand his Brinnig, Oliver his Haute-Claire, Orlando his Durindana, Roland his Durandal, Rogero his Balisarda and Siegfried his Balmung.

Masterly Strategy

"NEVER in all its long, proud history has the German army sustained such unmitigated disaster as the Red Army has inflicted upon it in the battle of Stalingrad. Hitler has been outgeneralled, outmanœuvred and outfought. We have had one bit of really good news lately.

"TO-DAY the armies of the Soviet Union have forced him to stand before Germany as the man who is personally responsible for the slaughter of over a quarter of a million of the best of his own troops. In three months the Red Army has conquered all territory wrested from it by the Germans during the summer last year and much more besides, for the Red Army has driven into the minds of the German people the lesson that German troops can be defeated and hurled into the confusion of retreat. We are proud that our own Eighth Army taught Rommel that lesson too. Hitler's grand army like Napoleon's has found that there is deadly risk in a trial of strength against Russian patriotism, against the Russian peoples' capacity to endure the sternest sacrifice and against the great spaces of the Russian motherland.

"ON this anniversary we pay tribute to every department of the Red Army, to the High Command under the supreme direction of M. Stalin himself for their masterly strategy, to the Generals in field for its brilliant execution, to junior officers of every rank for their gallant and skilled leadership of troops, to non-commissioned officers and men for their stubborn endurance in adversity and ardour with which they have swung over to the offensive, to the gallant men of the Red Air Force and to all those responsible for overcoming the appalling difficulties of communications and supply. Not the least I think this country would wish to pay tribute to the deathless courage of the guerilla forces of the Soviet Union.

"IN May last, we signed here in London the Anglo-Soviet treaty of alliance. We are not only agreed to work together for the utter destruction of the Axis in war, we are agreed on the broad principles which will underline our collaboration in peace. To-day we salute the Red Army, the true successors of those who fought against Teuton knights in the days of Alexander Nevesky, against the would-be conqueror Charles XII, against the Grand Army of Napoleon. We salute and mourn their gallant dead. We look forward to the final victory that will be won together."

—Mr. ANTHONY EDEN.

Russia's "Land Battleships"

AT a railway siding in Moscow I saw the nearest thing to a land battleship that exists. It was one of the Soviet's newest armoured trains.

The train was standing in snow-covered tracks; it looked a powerful and sinister weapon with machine-guns poking out at its sides and long baralled guns projecting from its turrets.

There was a Russian General to show me the works. He was General Andre Georgievich Chernov, who told me that he had fought in an armoured train during the civil war when the White Guards were besieging Stalingrad, then known as Tsaritsyn. Armoured trains played an important part in the civil war, he said. "There were many of them in the first battle of Stalingrad," he continued, "though they were neither as powerful nor as well-armoured as this one."

He pointed to the armoured plating on the train we were inspecting. I saw that it was in two layers separated by about an inch. The outer layer was about an inch and a half thick and the inner layer was about an inch thick.

"You see, we were protected against almost anything except direct hit from a heavy shell or bomb," said General Chernov. "In the old days many of our armoured trains had only light protection. Most countries considered the armoured train out of date years ago and they were hardly ever mentioned in military journals; but because of our civil war experience the Red Army persisted with them and improved them. In this war we have put them to such good use that the Germans are imitating us and are also building armoured trains." General Chernov explained that because of the great distances to be covered in Russia and the nature of the country, there were special advantages in armoured trains—Godfrey Blunden in *Evening Standard*.

Rostov: Tactical Ascendancy

THE Russian capture of Rostov is a feat of utmost moral as well as material importance, says the *Daily Herald* Military Correspondent.

It shows that the Russians have established so complete a tactical ascendancy that the enemy can no longer count on holding any place however strongly fortified and stubbornly defended against the enveloping movements which the Russians have now employed with unvarying success.

Their prolonged resistance at Rostov was not that of a rearguard fighting for time only, but that of a garrison whose orders were to hold out at all costs.

PARTISAN UPRISINGS

The *Herald* Moscow correspondent cables that as they retreat in South Russia, the Germans have got to cope with partisan uprisings behind the front. These are now sweeping the entire population of many Ukrainian villages into the work of preying on communications.

In one village near Voroshilovgrad when the news came of the Red Army's advance in the neighbourhood, the whole population armed themselves with sporting guns, crowbars, scythes and every kind of makeshift weapon and fell on a German lorry; their ambush was so effective that they captured the radio apparatus, 10 lorries of ammunition and quantities of rifles. Armed with these they developed their operations yet more devastatingly.

Madras Thanked

His Excellency Sir Arthur Hope, Governor of Madras, has received from Sir Stafford Cripps the following message:—

"My sincerest thanks for further gift of £7,500 from people of Madras. We in Britain are deeply conscious of India's part in our struggle and we appreciate the very generous assistance which comes from Madras. —*Stafford Cripps*."

"STRAIGHT FROM THE HORSE'S MOUTH".—Two V.C.O.'s of Q.V.O. Sappers and Miners, tell a large crowd of Madras workers, how the munitions and supplies they have turned out have been used against the enemy.

Diary of the War

ENGLAND AND GERMANY

19th Feb.—There was slight enemy activity near the south-east coast of England.

Goebbels, speaking in the Berlin Sports Palast, said : "We have got to act and that without delay, quickly and thoroughly. In the east, we are at the moment living through a military trial."

20th Feb.—The Royal Air Force attacked Wilhelmshaven and also railway and canal targets in Belgium and France.

The Gestapo, faced with the danger of invasion from the east, ordered all peasants of full German blood to be armed.

One E-boat was destroyed and another damaged in the North Sea.

According to reports received in Zurich, Germany's total casualties in the war amounted to approximately four million.

21st Feb.—Two German aircraft flew over the coastal districts of north-east Scotland dropping bombs at two points.

The Royal Air Force bombed Wilhelmshaven. It was disclosed that United States aircraft destroyed 24 German aircraft in two days in raids on Dunkirk and Saint Nazaire.

22nd Feb.—The Royal Air Force heavily attacked the Deschimag ship-building yard in Bremen.

The Chinese Military Mission from the United States arrived in Britain.

23rd Feb.—The need for the speedy opening of a second front in Europe was urged in the House of Lords by Lord Beverbrook, former Minister of Aircraft Production.

25th Feb.—A telegram from President Kalinin accepting the King's offer of the Sword of Honour for Stalingrad was received by the King on February 23.

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND ATLANTIC

19th Feb.—Madame Chiang-Kai-shek arrived in Washington on February 17. She warned a joint session of the United States Congress of the power of Japan. "The peril of the Japanese juggernaut remains."

Mr. Stimson announced that Lieut.-Gen. Walter Krueger had been relieved of the command of the Third Army and assigned to head the new Sixth American Army. [This Army comprises United States troops in Australia and New Zealand area.]

20th Feb.—Madame Chiang-Kai-Shek said at White House that Americans could help Chinese best by sending more implements of war.

Mr. E. R. Stettinus, United States Lease-Lend Administrator, stated that lease-lend shipments of war supplies to the Soviet in January were 10 per cent greater than in December.

Mr. Donald Nelson, Chairman of the War Production Board, said in a speech at Baltimore: "Before many months, we shall have enough production to smother the Axis."

22nd Feb.—President Roosevelt, in a letter published by the *Post Dispatch*, stated: "We have now turned a corner in the war."

23rd Feb.—Mr. Robert Patterson, United States Under Secretary of War, said at the American Labour Press Association Conference that the war was unlikely to finish in 1943. It was likely to end in 1944 or 1945.

President Roosevelt in a message to M. Stalin on Red Army Day, said: "On behalf of the people of the United States, I want to express to the Red Army our profound admiration for its magnificent achievements unsurpassed in all history."

24th Feb.—The 45,000-ton battleship **Iowa,** the mightiest warship of the United States Navy, was commissioned seven months ahead of schedule.

25th Feb.—To a gallup poll question, "Is Japan or Germany our Chief enemy?" put to Americans, 52 per cent replied Japan.

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INDIA, BURMA AND CEYLON

19th Feb.—The Royal Air Force attacked the enemy-occupied village of Yegvanbyin on Akyab Island. Bombs were dropped on Japanese troop positions at Donbaik. Monywa aerodrome was attacked.

21st Feb.—The Royal Air Force attacked the Japanese aerodrome at Toungoo. Two villages on Akyab island were also attacked. United States aircraft attacked railroad rolling stock at Ywataung in Central Burma.

22nd Feb.—Hundraj M. Parwani, a prominent Congressman of Sind, who returned to India after an adventurous escape from the Japanese in East Asia, said: "Japan's professions of friendliness and goodwill towards India are insincere and false, meant only to deceive India. Conditions in India would, in the event of a Japanese victory, be a hundred times worse than at present."

23rd Feb.—The Royal Air Force bombed Port Dufferin and Myingan in Burma. American aircraft attacked enemy headquarters at Sahmaw. Buildings, barracks, oil tanks and railroad installations were destroyed. Japanese forces pushing into Yunnan from Burma, failed to cross the Salween river.

24th Feb.—The Royal Air Force attacked enemy objectives at Akyab and Panktawagyi. Bombs were dropped on and near the runaways of Mingaldon airfield in Rangoon.

25th Feb.—An attack representing the first Japanese offensive against a United States base was made on an American air-base in Assam on 23rd February.

Both Chinese and Japanese suffered heavy casualties in the fighting that raged for five days on the west bank of the Salween river.

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ITALY, AFRICA AND THE MEDITERRANEAN

19th Feb.—Two Axis planes were over Cyprus. United States bombers raided Cagliari and two other places in Sardinia.

Allied forces evacuated Feriana and Sheitla. Kasierina was occupied by German troops. American forces evacuated three air fields in southern Tunisia.

Advanced elements of the Eighth Army reached Madenine and attacked the southern flank of Rommel's forces.

20th Feb.—The Eighth Army captured a Mareth Line outpost. A major battle was imminent in Southern Tunisia.

21st Feb.—Mr. A. V. Alexander, First Lord of the Admiralty, announced that since the battle of El Alamein, 136 Axis supply ships were sunk in the Mediterranean and 112 damaged.

Allied forward positions in the Ousseltia Valley were withdrawn. General Sir H. Alexander took over his command of all land forces in Tunisia.

Remarkable and Inspiring

"For Stalin's courage, his ceaseless labour, his leadership and his consummate skill, we and the world owe the greatest debt of gratitude. In the dark days of retreat, his leadership of the Soviet Union was as remarkable and inspiring as that of our own Prime Minister in the days of Dunkirk. I can pay no higher tribute to any man than that."

—SIR STAFFORD CRIPPS.

The Secretary of State for India, the Right Honourable L. S. Amery, with the Bevin Boys at their hostel in Lethchworth.

General Catroux was appointed permanent Liaison Officer between the Fighting French and General Giraud.

Sgr. Gayda, known as Mussolini's mouthpiece, made a statement in *Giornale D'Italia* that the Axis would continue resistance till a negotiated peace became possible. Mr. Elmer Davis, Director of the American Office of War Information, described it as "the first appeal for peace by a leading Axis statesman."

22nd Feb.—The Allies advanced west of Madenine. The Axis took Kasserine Pass in Southern Tunisia.

23rd Feb.—A strong enemy attack north-west of Kasserine was successfully held. The enemy suffered casualties and tank losses south of Sbiba. The Eighth Army continued its advance towards the Mareth Line.

Two medium-sized enemy supply ships were destroyed, a large tanker probably destroyed and damage inflicted on three other vessels by British submarines in the Mediterranean.

24th Feb.—Rommel's drive from the Kasserine Pass to the key town of Tala in Central Tunisia was blunted.

25th Feb.—The Axis formed a new line three miles from Kasserine.

* * * *

RUSSIA AND FINLAND

19th Feb.—The Royal Air Force attacked forecast Axis evacuation of the Ukraine.

The Russian troops were within 12 miles of Taganrog. There were furious battles in Don basin. There was street fighting in Novorossisk.

20th Feb.—The Red troops captured the town and railway station of Merafa. The railway line and highway from Kursk to Kharkov was completely cleared of the enemy.

21st Feb.—Krasnograd was taken in the Ukraine. The Russians launched a three-pronged drive on Orel. Lubolin, an important place 25 miles west of Kharkov, was captured. The Red Army broke through two more defence lines—one beyond Kursk and the other west of Krasnodar.

The Chinese people's Foreign Relations Association sent the following message to M. Stalin and the Red Army: "Your victories have laid the foundations of Allied victory."

In a message on the Red Army Day to M. Kalinin, Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Council of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, His Majesty the King said: "To mark the profound admiration felt by myself and the peoples of the British Empire, I have given commands for the preparation of the Sword of Honour which it would give me pleasure to present to the City of Stalingrad."

22nd Feb.—The Russian army made rapid strides in the drive against Dniepropetrovsk, Poltava and Sumy. Pavlograd was captured. The Russian armies operating from Voroshilovgrad and Rostov joined forces.

23rd Feb.—According to the Stockholm correspondent of *New York Times*, Finland had decided to sue for a separate peace.

The Germans abandoned Dneipropetrovsk. A German transport and a cargo ship were sunk by a Soviet submarine in the Polar Sea. A bitter battle was being fought for Orel.

Yugoslav guerillas put more than 50 German tanks out of action in a few days and killed about 1,500 German and Italian troops.

24th Feb.—The Russians captured Sumy, an important railway junction in Ukraine, and advanced west of Kursk.

In an Order of the Day, Stalin said: "In three months the Red Army has cleared of the enemy the territory of Voronezh and Stalingrad, regions of Chechenoingush and other autonomous republics . . . Mass expulsion of the enemy from the Soviet country has started."

25th Feb.—The Red Army continued to advance in Ukraine and the Germans threw in huge reserves.

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NEUTRAL COUNTRIES

19th Feb.—Sir Henry Maitland Wilson, the new Commander-in-Chief of the Middle East, warned British troops in Iraq and Persia that much hard fighting "will fall to your lot."

21st Feb.—M. Sarajoglu, the Turkish Prime Minister, in a broadcast speech declared that a real alliance had been established between Britain and Turkey.

M. Sarajoglu, the Turkish Prime Minister, announced that Mr. Anthony Eden, British Foreign Secretary, had become an honorary member of the Turkish "Alkerli" (Turkish Cultural Society in foreign countries for Turks living abroad).

22nd Feb.—The new Persian Prime Minister, Ali Soheily, in opening the new Parliament, declared that the new Persian Government would spare no effort to increase the spirit of sincerity and mutual understanding governing Persia's relations with the Allies.

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SHIPPING

22nd Feb.—The United States submarine *Argonaut* was lost.

23rd Feb.—Two United States passenger cargo ships were sunk in North Atlantic with heavy loss of life.

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VICHY AND OCCUPIED COUNTRIES

20th Feb.—The Vichy Government closed all departments adjoining the Spanish frontier.

21st Feb.—All men, women and children of Turkish minorities living in Bulgaria near the Turkish border were sent to Dobrudja as a precautionary measure.

22nd Feb.—Warnings that total mobilization must be carried out without delay or Germany would otherwise resort to economic and even military sanctions were delivered to the Italian, Rumanian, Hungarian and Slovak Governments.

Some 170 bars and night clubs were closed down in Prague to release labour for the war front.

Five Danish industrial and other establishments working for the Germans were partly or completely destroyed by sabotage.

23rd Feb.—The Germans occupied Croatia.

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THE FAR EAST

19th Feb.—United States aircraft attacked Japanese positions in the Shortland Islands. A Japanese airfield at Kahili on the south-east coast of Bougainville Island was also attacked.

There were fierce battles in North, Central and South China. Japanese troops landed on Kwangchowwan, a French Colony, 250 miles west of Hongkong. The Japanese launched extensive offensives in Hupeh, Kiangsi, Kwangtung and Kiangsu provinces.

20th Feb.—Sydney had an air raid alert. One enemy plane that appeared was driven off.

21st Feb.—United States naval forces shelled Japanese positions on Attu Island in the Aleutians.

22nd Feb.—Allied aircraft dropped 23 tons of bombs on Buin and Faisi on Japanese air-fields.

Mr. Ralph Seard Bard, United States Assistant Secretary for Navy, declared in a speech at Baltimore that the Japanese would be blasted out of their strongholds and beaten into submission.

Sweden relinquished her territorial rights in China.

23rd Feb.—Lieutenant-Commander George Porter of the United States navy disclosed that undersea boats were within "spitting distance" of the Japanese homeland.

Munda in the Solomons was bombed by United States aircraft.

24th Feb.—An Allied convoy shot down five out of eight attacking Japanese torpedo planes. Japanese positions in Kiska were raided.

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